

House Bill 1237

By: Representatives Talton of the 145th, O'Neal of the 146th, Murphy of the 23rd, Scott of the 2nd, and Hill of the 180th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prestige and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, so as to
3 provide for special license plates in honor of the Georgia Association of Realtors; to provide
4 for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications, and transfers relative to such
5 license plates; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 prestige and special license plates for certain persons and vehicles, is amended by adding a
11 new Code Section 40-2-86.18 to read as follows:

12 "(a) There shall be issued special and distinctive vehicle license plates honoring the
13 Georgia Association of Realtors for their longstanding support of housing opportunities for
14 all citizens of this state, private property rights, and all organizations that assist people in
15 achieving the American dream of home ownership, subject to the conditions set forth in
16 this Code section.

17 (b) The commissioner shall design special distinctive license plates to honor the Georgia
18 Association of Realtors. The license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor
19 vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby
20 the total number of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients shall receive
21 identically numbered plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be placed to the
22 left of the alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by three inches.
23 Such design shall not provide space in which to indicate the name of the county of
24 issuance. Any person may request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license

1 plates upon payment of an additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate
2 requested.

3 (c) Beginning January 1, 2007, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle,
4 except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with
5 the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the
6 payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular motor vehicle
7 registration fee shall be issued a license plate honoring the Georgia Association of Realtors.
8 Revalidation decals shall be issued for such license plates in the same manner as provided
9 for general issue license plates.

10 (d) An applicant may request a license plate honoring the Georgia Association of Realtors
11 at any time during the applicant's registration period. If such a license plate is to replace
12 a current valid license plate, such license plate shall be issued with appropriate decals
13 attached.

14 (e) No special license plate authorized pursuant to this Code section shall be issued except
15 upon the receipt by the department of at least 1,000 applications. The special license plate
16 shall have an application period of two years after the effective date of this Code section,
17 for payment of the manufacturing fee. After such time if the minimum number of
18 applications is not met, the department shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee,
19 and all fees shall be refunded to applicants.

20 (f) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license
21 plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during
22 the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current
23 registrant may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual
24 registration period upon payment of an additional \$25.00 annual special tag fee which fee
25 shall be collected by the county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees
26 and shall be remitted to the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department
27 may continue to issue such special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in
28 achieving the minimum number of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500
29 active registrations at any time during the five-year period as provided in subsection (b) of
30 Code Section 40-2-31, the department must receive 1,000 applications accompanied by the
31 manufacturing fee to continue to manufacture the license plate.

32 (g) Georgia Association of Realtors license plates shall be transferred from one vehicle to
33 another vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-80.

34 (h) Georgia Association of Realtors license plates shall be issued within 30 days of
35 application once the requirements of this Code section have been met."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

3 **SECTION 3.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.